

Message Text

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13/51

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /050 W
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O R 141555Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9825

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0286

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A 3.)

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, IR, IZ

SUBJ: IRAQI PROPOSAL FOR AN "ARAB GULF NAVY"; ACCOUNTS OF
IRANIAN AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS IN THE GULF

1. ACCORDING TO SAUDI ACTING MINISTE OF STATE FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS, SHAIKH MUHAMMAD MAS'UD, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE
VISIT OF SAADUN HAMMOUDI, IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER, WHO VISITED
JIDDA JAN 11 AND 12, WAS TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR A JOINT ARAB
NAVY FOR THE GULF. HAMMOUDI SAID THAT IRAN'S MILITARY BUILD-
UP, PARTICULARLY ITS NAVY, WAS DESIGNED TO ENABLE IT TO
OCCUPY THE ARABIAN LITTORAL.

2. MAS'UD SAID THE SAG TOLD HAMMOUDI THAT HE EXAGGERATED THE
IRANIAN THREAT. FURTHERMORE, HOW COULD IRAN TALK AOUBT JOINT
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ARAB ACTION IN THE GULF WHEN ITS RADIO ATTACKED SAUDI ARABIA

DAILY, WHEN IT CLAIMED LARGE SECTIONS OF KUWAIT AND ACTUALLY OCCUPIED PART OF IT, AND WHEN IT WAS BEHIND REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN OMAN AND CONSTANTLY TRIED TO STIR UP TROUBLES IN THE GULF EMIRATES?

3. MAS'UD TOLD ME THAT, IN FACT, THE SAUDIS WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY WORRIED ABOUT THE IRANIAN ACTIVITIES AND ITS ARMS BUILD-UP AND SAID THAT PRINCE FAHD HAD ASKED HIM LATE LAST NIGHT TO BRING THIS MATTER TO MY ATTENTION. (FAHD LEFT THIS MORNING FOR DAMASCUS WITH KING FAISAL.) FAHD SAID THAT THE ARABS WERE PLEASED WITH THE RECENT STATEMENTS BY THE SHAH ON PALESTINE, BUT THEY FEARED IT WAS A PRELUDE OR A COVER-UP FOR FURTHER IRANIAN MOVES IN THE GULF.

4. FAHD (THROUGH MAS'UD) ASKED ME WHAT POSITION WE WERE TAKING ON THE REVIVED PERSIAN CLAIMS TO BAHRAIN (I TOLD MAS'UD I WAS AMAZED; THAT I HAD HEARD NOTHING); ABOUT THE INCREASED ILLEGAL PERSIAN IMMIGRATION INTO THE GULF STATES (I TOLD HIM I KNEW OF NOUGHTING); OR THE PLANNED IRANIAN NAVAL BASE ON THE RAS AL-MASANDUM, WHICH THE ARABS COULD "NEVER TOLERATE" (I TOLD HIM I WAS IGNORANT OF ANY SUCH PLAN). MAS'UD SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE IT GREATLY IF WE COULD GIVE THEM INFORMATION ON ALL THESE MATTERS.

5. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT THESE HORROR STORIES WERE PLANTED IN THE SAUDI MINDS BY HAMMOUDI AND WOULD LIKE TO LAY THEM TO REST.

6. ACTION REQUESTED FROM DEPARTMENT AND INFO ADDRESSEES:

A. HAS ANY IRANIAN SPOKESMAN REOPENED THE CLAIM TO BAHRAIN?

B. IS THERE EVIDENCE OF ANY INCREASED IRANIAN INFILTRATION INTO ANY GULF STATE?

C. HAVE IRAN AND OMAN REACHED ANY AGREEMENT ON AN IRANIAN NAVAL PRESENCE ON THE RAS AL-MASANDUM?
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